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trace, along an irregular coast of great extent, the course of ancient mariners who had no nautical instruments, is a hopeless task. So far as the historical importance of these isolated and fruitless attempts at exploration and colonization is concerned, it is sufficient to demonstrate that Leif Erikson and Thorfinn Karlsefni were real men who belonged to the well-known Norse colony of Greenland; that in the early part of the eleventh century they visited various parts of the North American continent—got far enough south to make the observation that day and night were of more equal length than in Greenland; and, finally, found savages whose hostility prevented permanent settlement in the new regions. Just where the Norse explorers landed may have some sentimental interest, but it is not important, nor is it essential for the purpose of establishing the general truthfulness of the Vinland sagas.

In spite of the superfluity of detailed discourse relating to the identification of localities, Professor Hovgaard's book contains much valuable information. Letter-press, maps, and illustrations are in all respects excellent, and are a credit to the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

JULIUS E. OLSON.

Americ Vespuce, 1451-1512: sa Bibliographie, sa Vie, ses Voyages, ses Découvertes, l'Attribution de son Nom à l'Amérique, ses Relations Authentiques et Contestées. Par HENRY VIGNAUD. [Recueil de Voyages et de Documents pour servir à l'Histoire de la Géographie, XXIII.] (Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1917. Pp. ix, 421. 40 fr.)

THE foregoing title shows sufficiently the wide scope of the present volume. The book is the fruit of years of labor on the part of one who has devoted the greater part of a long lifetime to the history of American discovery. Its author has undertaken the huge work successively abandoned by Harrisse and Uzielli. If he brings to his task less of a critical spirit than either of these scholars would have done, that fault is almost pardonable in view of his enthusiasm for his subject and the noble desire to do justice to a man much maligned. For Vignaud frankly ranges himself as a Vespucci apologist. He reacts strongly against all recent doubting Thomases and reverts to the position taken by Varnhagen and John Fiske. Typographically the book is both beautiful and accurate; it is printed in quarto format with wide margins suggestive of anything but war-time penury.

The bibliographical portion contains little not to be found in Justin Winsor and Fumagalli, with the exception of recent publications, and not all of these are included. No mention is made of Rambaldi's biography, certain works of Antonio de Martino, the brief but important survey of Vespucci by the late Professor Bourne in his *Spain in America*, nor of the older writings of Gino Capponi. Doubtless a systematic

search would disclose further omissions. But most amazing is the failure to mention such important historical sources as the Magliabechiana manuscript of the *Soderini Letter* and the Amoretti Codex. The biography of Vespucci contains nothing new. Nowhere in the book has a new source been utilized. The texts published are reprints without attempt at collation or correction. Nevertheless it is convenient to have all this material assembled between two covers. We have: the *Mundus Novus* reprinted from the original with variants from the edition of Jehan Lambert Paris, with omission of the facsimiles; the *Soderini Letter*, taken from Varnhagen's faulty text, with some of the latter's typographical deviations, and without the cuts; the translation of the same into French by Norbert Sumien; the Latin text from the *Cosmographiae Introductio*, 1507; the three so-called apocryphal letters, which Vignaud does not accept as genuine. Vespucci's Latin and Spanish letters are not included.

Vignaud upholds the authenticity of the disputed first voyage. Not only that, but he holds with Varnhagen and Fiske that Vespucci sailed around the Gulf of Mexico and north beyond the coasts of Florida and Georgia. Once more the old "Parias-Lariab" controversy which we had supposed laid to rest is revived. In an introductory note Vignaud states that my study of the *Soderini Letter* had reached him too late to use, but adds that he is unconvinced that the Magliabechiana manuscript has any value. This is the only logical position which those who believe that Vespucci took the course described will henceforth be able to assume. For once let them admit the value of this source and their whole argument falls to the ground. The matter hinges on a point of textual criticism. Three versions, the Latin, the Magliabechiana, and the Amoretti Codex read *Parias*, *Perias*. The two first named at least, it can be demonstrated, often preserve the correct tradition (and certainly did in this instance) as against the Florentine print, which alone reads *Lariab*. The name *Lariab* never appeared on any map. It has never been identified with any town. It is a myth. For no better reason than that certain Mexican Indian names end in -ab, Varnhagen would place *Lariab* near Tampico, in spite of the fact that Vespucci states that he sailed 870 leagues to the northwest of the place in dispute. This argumentation Vignaud now adopts as trustfully as Fiske did before him. The negative evidence of the suit of the heirs of Columbus against the Spanish crown, invoked so tellingly by many critics, Vignaud brushes aside as irrelevant on the ground that Vespucci made no claim to have discovered *Parias*. The time is past for rejecting the Magliabechiana manuscript with a dogmatic assertion that it had no value. Where but from this source did Bandini and Varnhagen learn that Piero Soderini was the recipient of the letter? Not from the print, which Vignaud alone accepts as authoritative. Varnhagen used this source when it suited his purpose and suppressed its readings when these did not support his theories. Modern scholars should no longer be deceived.

Uzielli, whose work Vignaud had taken up, never tired of emphasizing the importance of this version. If we are ever to make progress in solving problems connected with Vespucci it will be through the critical study of sources, not by rethrashing old straw.

Throughout the book Vignaud displays a strong bias in favor of Vespucci's apologists and against those who have even mildly disputed some of his assertions. The most valuable portion of the study is that which traces the steps by which the name America came to be fastened upon the western continents. The subject has never been treated more fully than here. The views advanced are not new but sound, except for the attempt to show that Vespucci actually was the first to discover and chart a large portion of the North American continent.

GEORGE TYLER NORTHUP.

Colonial Virginia: its People and Customs. By MARY NEWTON STANARD. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1917. Pp. xv, 376. \$6.00.)

THIS work, important in content and spirited in style, was written by the wife of the secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, and is worthy of the excellent paper, print, binding, and illustrations which are its adornments. Mrs. Stanard has had access to her husband's copious notes, yet the work is her own. Its facts are drawn largely from unpublished manuscripts of various kinds, but also from documents printed in historical magazines, from the colonial newspaper, the *Virginia Gazette*, Fithian's *Diary*, etc. The book deals not merely with the people of colonial Virginia and their customs, but also with their houses, furniture, crockery, silver-ware, watches, clocks, jewelry, clothes, books, pictures, etc.

The first chapter tells of the founders of the colony down to 1625 and of the subsequent settlers. Almost all of the early Virginia colonists—of all classes, from noblemen to indentured servants—perished of disease, hunger, cold, or massacre by Indians; and those were stout-hearted indeed who remained to risk suffering and death. As to the origin of the "higher planting class", Mrs. Stanard considers that the families which can be traced to the English gentry are somewhat more numerous than those of mercantile origin; differing, thus, from Dr. Thomas J. Wertenbaker, who maintains, in his *Patrician and Plebeian in Virginia*, that a considerable majority of upper-class Virginians are descended from English merchants. She does not say much of the Huguenot, Scotch-Irish, and German colonists, or of the negroes.

In the chapter on Education the author wonders what that "embittered old man", Governor Berkeley, meant by thanking God in 1671 that there were no free schools in Virginia, since he must have been "well aware" of the existence of certain schools, of which she gives account, and of others as well. The chapter is subdivided into Free Schools,